

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 896 305 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
19.01.2000 Bulletin 2000/03

(51) Int Cl.7: G07F 17/32

(43) Date of publication A2:
10.02.1999 Bulletin 1999/06

(21) Application number: 98305355.4

(22) Date of filing: 06.07.1998

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: 08.08.1997 JP 21509297

(71) Applicant: Konami Co., Ltd.
Kobe-shi, Hyogo-ken (JP)

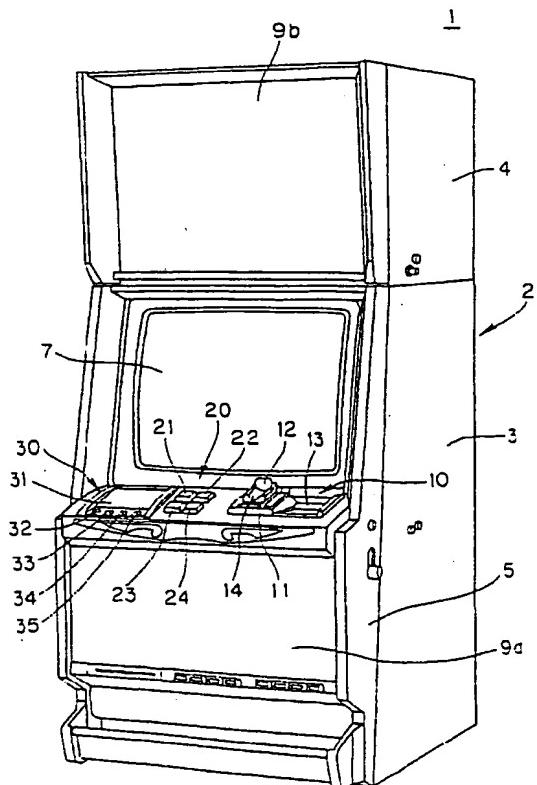
(72) Inventors:
• Shimizu, Toshiaki
Artarmon, NSW 2064 (AU)
• Aida, Eiji
Totsuka-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken (JP)

(74) Representative: Brunner, Michael John
GILL JENNINGS & EVERY
Broadgate House
7 Eldon Street
London EC2M 7LH (GB)

(54) Slot machine

(57) A slot machine comprises a housing (2) provided with an operation panel (8) on a front side thereof; a main display device (7) disposed above the operation panel; a sub-display device (31) disposed on the operation panel (8); a main input device capable of issuing information corresponding to an operation of a player thereto; and a game controller (50) for controlling a process of a game performed on a screen of the main display device (7) with referring to the information issued from the main input device. The main input device comprises a first input device (21, 22, 23, 24) provided on the operation panel (8) and the second input device (57) provided on the screen of the main display device (7) or a periphery thereof to thereby facilitate an observation of the sub-display device (31).

Fig. 1



EP 0 896 305 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 5355

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6) |
| X | EP 0 789 338 A (IGT (AUSTRALIA) PTY) 13 August 1997 (1997-08-13) | 1-3, 6-9, 11 | G07F17/32 |
| Y | * column 2, line 47 - column 3, line 42; figures 1-4 * | 4, 5 | |
| A | --- | 10, 12, 15 | |
| Y | WO 97 27921 A (PTT, LLC) 7 August 1997 (1997-08-07) * page 70, line 15 - page 72, line 18; figures 21-30 * | 4, 5 | |
| A | EP 0 253 584 A (BELL-FRUIT) 20 January 1988 (1988-01-20) * column 3, line 34 - column 4, line 10; figures * | 1, 6-10, 12, 15 | |
| A | EP 0 769 769 A (BALLY GAMING INTERNATIONAL) 23 April 1997 (1997-04-23) * column 4, line 3 - line 37 * * column 5, line 54 - column 6, line 4; figures * | 1-6, 10-12, 15 | |
| | ----- | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) |
| | | | G07F |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search | Date of completion of the search | Examiner | |
| THE HAGUE | 30 November 1999 | Neville, D | |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | | T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & member of the same patent family, corresponding document | |
| <small>EP FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C011)</small> | | | |

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 98 30 5355

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

30-11-1999

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
|--|---|------------------|----|-------------------------|--|------------------|
| EP 789338 | A | 13-08-1997 | AU | 1253097 A | | 14-08-1997 |
| WO 9727921 | A | 07-08-1997 | US | 5580059 A | | 03-12-1996 |
| | | | US | 5655773 A | | 12-08-1997 |
| | | | US | 5755621 A | | 26-05-1998 |
| | | | AU | 2255197 A | | 22-08-1997 |
| | | | AU | 3007097 A | | 26-11-1997 |
| | | | WO | 9741933 A | | 13-11-1998 |
| | | | US | 5897436 A | | 27-04-1999 |
| EP 253584 | A | 20-01-1988 | DE | 3783962 A | | 18-03-1993 |
| | | | GB | 2192478 A, B | | 13-01-1988 |
| EP 769769 | A | 23-04-1997 | AU | 704691 B | | 29-04-1999 |
| | | | AU | 5057696 A | | 24-04-1997 |
| | | | CA | 2173050 A | | 22-04-1997 |
| | | | NZ | 286211 A | | 26-06-1998 |
| | | | ZA | 9603241 A | | 30-08-1996 |

(OT42) KMLA 10 1998 21H5

EPO FORM P059

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)